

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7062

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

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SECSTATE FOR S/PRS AND JOHN TRATTNER: DEPARTMENT PASS
NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL:
USIA FOR IEU JOHN SHIRLEY: LONDON FOR SECRETARY'S
PARTY: MR HODDING CARTER III

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PRESS CONFERENCE WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT
AND SECRETARY VANCE AT THE CHANCELLERY IN BONN,
MARCH 31, 1977.

1. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT (TRANSLATION): LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN, MR. GENSCHER AND I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF
INTRODUCING TO YOU THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, MR. VANCE. FOR MORE THAN
FOUR HOURS WE HAD DETAILED DISCUSSIONS, WE HAD A
LIGHT LUNCHEON AND WE HAD CONVERSATIONS WHICH TOOK
PLACE IN A MOST FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE ATMOSPHERE.

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AS THE HOST I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE PRECEDENCE TO OUR
AMERICAN GUEST AT THIS IMPROVISED BRIEF MEETING WITH
THE PRESS AND I'D NOW LIKE TO ASK THE SECRETARY,
MR. VANCE, TO GIVE YOU A SHORT REPORT.

2. SECRETARY: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. CHANCELLOR.
LET ME SAY I APPRECIATED VERY MUCH THE OPPORTUNITY

OF MEETING TODAY WITH THE CHANCELLOR AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND SOME OTHER OFFICIALS FROM THE GOVERNMENT. WE HAD A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION. I REPORTED TO THE CHANCELLOR AND HIS COLLEAGUES ON MY RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW AND ON THE VARIOUS TOPICS THAT WERE COVERED DURING MY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. IN ADDITION, WE DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL TOPICS, INCLUDING THE MIDDLE EAST, SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE, THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE FORECASTS FOR THE ECONOMY IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. IT WAS A VERY USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSION AND AS THE CHANCELLOR INDICATED, WAS MOST CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE AS OUR DISCUSSIONS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AND WILL ALWAYS BE WITH THE OFFICIALS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

3. CHANCELLOR (IN ENGLISH): THE FLOOR IS OPEN FOR QUESTIONS.

4. QUESTION: I WONDER 18 HOURS AFTER THE EVENT, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD ADDRESS YOURSELF TO THE SOVIET CONTENTION THAT THE COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE WAS INEQUITABLE. YOU TOLD US THAT THE COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE WOULD BE GOOD FOR ARMS CONTROL AND IT WOULD INVOLVE THE CUTS AND THAT'S CLEAR. BUT I WONDER IF YOU COULD POINT OUT TO US THOSE ELEMENTS IN THE PACKAGE WHICH DENOTE ITS FAIRNESS AND ITS EQUALITY ON THE TWO SIDES?

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5. ANSWER: SECRETARY - YES, I'D BE HAPPY TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION. INsofar AS THE PACKAGE RELATED TO ICBM'S IT SOUGHT TO STRIKE A FAIR BALANCE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REDUCING THE NUMBER OF WEAPONS WHICH BOTH SIDES WOULD HAVE AND ALSO PUT A FREEZE UPON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FUTURE SO AS TO COPE WITH THE QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENT PROBLEM, WHICH IS ONE THAT HAS BEEN RUNNING WITHOUT CONSTRAINTS IN THE PAST. IT ALSO TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE CONCERNS OF BOTH THE PARTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE TWO OTHER ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN SO CONTROVERSIAL, NAMELY THE QUESTION OF THE CRUISE MISSILE AND THE BACKFIRE. IN EACH CASE IT REQUIRED SOME GIVE ON THE PART OF THE OTHER SIDE WITH RESPECT TO THESE TWO ITEMS AND I THINK IT PROVIDED THAT. SO ON THE WHOLE IT SEEMS TO ME IT WAS A VERY FAIR PACKAGE.

6. QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, COULD YOU GET TO A CLOSER POINT OF VIEW WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TODAY

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CONCERNING THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN ATOMIC TRADE?

7. ANSWER: SECRETARY - WE MERELY DISCUSSED THE OVERALL
QUESTION OF NON-PROLIFERATION TODAY.

8. QUESTION: MR. VANCE, IN YOUR STATEMENT YESTERDAY
IN MOSCOW YOU SAID IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY IF THE
RESULTS OF MOSCOW ENDED UP IN AN ACCELERATION OF
THE ARMS RACE. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT CARTER LAST NIQHT
INDICATED THAT IF THE SOVIETS DID NOT SHOW GOOD
FAITH IN GENEVA IN MAY THAT THE U.S. MIGHT VERY WELL
GO AHEAD WITH FUTURE ARMS DEVELOPMENT. I WONDER HOW
YOU MIGHT RECONCILE THESE TWO POINTS?

9. ANSWER: SECRETARY - YES, I THINK THAT THE ... HE
WOULD BE VERY RELUCTANT TO HAVE THAT COURSE OF ACTION.
HE IS ONE WHO, AS YOU KNOW, HAS THE STRONGEST CON-
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VICTION THAT WE MUST SEEK WAYS TO REDUCE THE ARMS RACE, NOT ONLY IN THE NUCLEAR AREA BUT IN THE AREA OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS AS WELL. AND HE WOULD FAR PREFER, I AM SURE, TO BE ABLE TO AVOID TAKING STEPS WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE ACQUISITION OF ARMS RATHER THAN THE OTHER COURSE.

10. QUESTION: WAS THAT A THREAT, SIR?

11. ANSWER: SECRETARY - I DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE IT IN ANY WAY.

12. QUESTION: MR. CHANCELLOR, MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION, SIR? WHAT IMPACT DO YOU THINK THE BREAKDOWN OF THE TALKS IN MOSCOW YESTERDAY WILL HAVE ON THE SENSE OF SECURITY IN WESTERN EUROPE?

13. ANSWER: CHANCELLOR - (TRANSLATION): I DO NOT THINK THAT THE TERM BREAKDOWN IS THE CORRECT TERM. IF I INTERPRET IT CORRECTLY THEN BOTH OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS AND THEIR SOVIET COUNTERPARTS WERE OF THE OPINION THAT THIS WASN'T IN ANY WAY THE END OF THE ROAD. MR. VANCE TOLD US OF A NUMBER OF WORKING GROUPS WHOSE FUNCTION IT WOULD BE SHORTLY TO FURTHER DISCUSS A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES ON THE ONE HAND AND THE SOVIET UNION ON THE OTHER. I PERSONALLY CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE BASIC INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE WESTERN WORLD AS A WHOLE, AS WELL AS THE BASIC INTERESTS OF THE SOVIET UNION INSPIRE THEIR VERY STRONG DESIRE ON BOTH SIDES TO ARRIVE AT A SALT II AGREEMENT. AND PERHAPS ONE COULD NOT EXPECT A FIRST MEETING OF

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THAT KIND TO PRODUCE TANGIBLE RESULTS.

14. QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, ...THE CYPRUS QUESTION...?

15. ANSWER: SECRETARY - MAY I ASK THAT THIS BE THE LAST QUESTION BECAUSE I HAVE TO CATCH A PLANE AND BE AT A MEETING IN LONDON WITH MR. CALLAGHAN AT SIX O'CLOCK TONIGHT.

ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE TALKS HAVE RESUMED IN VIENNA. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT A MAP WAS PLACED ON THE TABLE IN CONNECTION WITH THOSE TALKS BY ONE OF THE PARTIES, I BELIEVE IT WAS THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE. THIS IS THE FIRST STEP IN RESUMING THE DISCUSSIONS. I THINK IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE ANYBODY PUT A MAP ON THE TABLE. SO THAT PERHAPS THAT IS SOME PROGRESS. WE JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT COMES OUT OF THE DISCUSSIONS BEFORE WE CAN TELL WHETHER ANY REAL PROGRESS
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IS BEING MADE.

16. CHANCELLOR (TRANSLATION): LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS WAS THE VERY LAST QUESTION. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR HAVING BEEN HERE, BOTH THE GERMAN JOURNALISTS AND THE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS, WHO ACCOMPANY MR. VANCE ON HIS TOUR. AND I WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO THANK MR. VANCE FOR HAVING BEEN WITH US. YOU MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT PRIOR TO HIS TRIP TO MOSCOW HE PERSONALLY INFORMED THE NATO COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS JUST BEFORE RETURNING HOME AND NOW HE IS INFORMING THE ALLIES. AND I CONSIDER BOTH THESE EVENTS AS CLEAR EXPRESSION OF THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES. ONCE AGAIN, (CHANCELLOR IN ENGLISH), THANK YOU VERY MUCH, AND HAPPY TRIP TO OTHER CAPITALS IN EUROPE. HAPPY TRIP BACK TOWARDS HOME.

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